

## REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 6, 9 and 10. Claims 14-24 have been cancelled. Applicants have provided two replacement sheets of figures 12A and 12B to address the Examiner's objections to the drawings.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or teach each of the features of independent claims 1, 6, and 10 as amended. In particular, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include the feature of the stress relief device being a fluid supply system delivering a fluid to a top portion of a smoothed slurry layer. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Sandhu does not disclose this feature. Lehman teaches a fluid supply to a bottom surface so that a path from the optical sensor through a hole in the pad remains clear, so that the sensor can function. Accordingly Lehman does not teach or disclose delivering the fluid to a top surface of the slurry because there is no slurry where the hole for the optical sensor is in the pad (see Figure 6 and corresponding text).

Claims 2-5 and 7-9 are patentable over the combination of Sandhu and Lehman for at least these reasons.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the feature that the sensor is embedded in the wafer carrier. Under Sandhu, the infrared camera is mounted to the polishing platen (see column 5, lines 22-23, lines 63-68 and Figures 6-6A). Sandhu requires the camera to be disposed on the platen and to modify would require a major redesign as well as change Sandhu from its intended purpose. Thus, Sandhu does not teach all of the claim limitations of claim 10. Claims 11-13 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the

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Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 774-6921. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. LAM2P438). A copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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